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January 11, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

It is in the best interest of the American public for the Department of Justice to finalize settlement with Microsoft in the antitrust case and for your office to urge the none states in opposition to settle as soon as possible.

A number of the concessions violate Microsoft's rights in a free market. For instance, to restrict Microsoft from entering into third party agreements for exclusive or fixed percentage distribution inhibits their ability to compete. Service companies such as Pepsi and Coca-Cola rely on these third party agreements to gain market share.

I also believe that Microsoft should be rewarded for its innovation in the tech sector. Much time and money has been spent on redeveloping Microsoft's superior products and services and to have to disclose that information violates their intellectual property rights. Microsoft is also one of the few companies who constantly updates and improves its software. I have a whole shelf of software from other companies that they are either impossible to get a hold of or was just interested in selling you the initial program. I know my Microsoft products are going to be usable and upgradeable for a while.

Our nation's government should be focusing on ways to ensure security for our people and help us lift out of recession. Hindering our industrial powerhouses will only hurt our economic recovery. I urge your office to do the right thing and suppress opposition and finalize the settlement.

I also want to thank you for your services to this Country during these unprecedented times and Americans fully support your efforts.

Sincerely,



Don Read
President

cc: Senator Rick Santorum